

Message Text

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SUBJ: TORONTO SUN AFFAIR - TORONTO STAR QUESTIONS APPLICATION
OF OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT

REF: (A) TORONTO 439 (B) TORONTO 450

1. UNDER AN EIGHT COLUMN HEADLINE "HANDLING OF OFFICIAL SECRETS CHARGES --- A CURIOUS AFFAIR", THE MARCH 22 TORONTO STAR CARRIED FRONT PAGE ARTICLE BY GEORGE BAIN, STAR ASSOCIATE EDITOR, ON THE QUESTION RAISED BY BAIN PIECE MARCH 19, REPORTED IN REF (B), REGARDING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S APPARENT DISINTEREST IN THE C.T.V. TELEVISION NETWORK'S PROGRAM OF FEBRUARY 12 ABOUT THE SOVIET SPY OPERATION CODE BLUE, WHILE CHARGING TORONTO SUN EDITOR WORTHINGTON FOR PUBLICATION SAME SECRET MATERIAL.

2. BAIN WROTE "WHAT MAKES MORE CURIOUS THE GOVERNMENT'S STEADFAST INDIFFERENCE TO OPERATION CODE BLUE IS THAT IN ALL THREE CASES - WORTHINGTON, COSSITT AND C.T.V. - THE SAME SUPPOSEDLY TOP SECRET DOCUMENT WAS IDENTIFIABLY THE SOURCE." BAIN REFERRED TO AN EXCHANGE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON MARCH 20 WHEN TORY ELMER MACKAY ASKED ABOUT THE "THE APPARENT LACK OF CONSISTENCY" IN PROSECUTING THE SUN AND NOT C.T.V. ACCORDING TO BAIN, WHILE ATTORNEY GENERAL
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BASFORD REPLIED THAT THE CASES WERE QUITE DIFFERENT, "COMPARISON SAYS OTHERWISE." BAIN THEN GAVE COMPARISONS BETWEEN THE C.T.V. NETWORK AND THE WORTHINGTON ARTICLE TO ILLUSTRATE SIMILARITY.

3. BAIN CONCLUDED: "AMONG THE QUESTIONS RAISED ARE

THESE: IS THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT BEING SELECTIVELY
APPLIED? CAN ANY PROSECUTION ALLEGING IMPROPER DIS-
CLOSURE OF SECRETS BE SUSTAINED WHEN THE SUPPOSED SECRETS
HAVE BEEN SO BADLY KEPT? AND, ISN'T THERE MORE THEN A
WHIFF OF POLITICS HANGING OVER THE WHOLE BUSINESS?"
DIGGINS

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